XV. *An Account of a remarkable Darkneſs at* Detroit, *in* America: *In a Letter from the Rev. Mr.* James Stirling, *to Mr.* John Duncan: *communicated by* Samuel Mead, *Eſq; F. R. S.*

Detroit, 25th Oct. 1762.

SIR,

Read March 3, 1763. A Man in buſineſs ſeldom troubles himſelf about news; yet the following is ſo uncommon, I cannot neglect acquainting you therewith. Tueſday laſt, being the 19th inſtant, we had almoſt total darkneſs for the moſt of the day. I got up at day break: about 10 minutes after I obſerved it got no lighter than before; the ſame darkneſs continued untill 9 o'clock, when it cleared up a little. We then, for the ſpace of about a quarter of an hour, ſaw the body of the Sun, which appeared as red as blood, and more than three times as large as uſual. The air all this time, which was very denſe, was of a dirty yellowiſh green colour. I was obliged to light candles to ſee to dine, at one o'clock, notwithſtanding the table was placed cloſe by two large windows. About 3 the darkneſs became more horrible, which augmented untill half paſt 3, when the wind breezed up from the S. W. and brought on ſome drops of rain or rather ſulphur, and dirt, for it appeared more like the latter than the former, both

both in ſmell and quality. I took a leaf of clean paper, and held it out in the rain, which rendered it black whenever the drops fell upon it; but, when held near the fire, turned to a yellow colour, and when burned, it fizzed on the paper like wet powder. During this ſhower, the air was almoſt ſuffocating with a ſtrong ſulphurous ſmell; it cleared up a little after the rain. There were various conjectures about the cauſe of this natural incident. The Indians, and vulgar among the French, ſaid, that the Engliſh, which lately arrived from Niagara in the veſſel, had brought the plague with them: Others imagined it might have been occaſioned by the burning of the woods: But I think it moſt probable, that it might have been occaſioned by the eruption of ſome volcano, or ſubterraneous fire, whereby the ſulphurous matter may have been emitted in the the air, and contained therein, until, meeting with ſome watery clouds, it has fallen down together with the rain.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

James Stirling.